

## KIEFF, THE LEAD KING

### Story of the Biggest Strike in the Cooks Peak District.

Through large holdings and successful management of his properties and the wealth he has accumulated from their operation, William Kieff is known as the Lead King. He is said to have made \$25,000 in the past two years, and from developments now under way in claims purchased by him within this time, he will net be much older before he doubles his store of wealth.

He did not begin to operate in Cook's district until December, 1893—less than four years ago; and the story of his success is more entertaining than a tale of fiction; for, while it carries all the elements of romance that an inventive mind might proune, it has above and beyond that the merits of truth and actuality. Born in Germany of parents who had considerable wealth, he came to this country seventeen years ago with a liberal education, considerable business ex-

perience, a good head for executive control and a stout heart and arm. Soon after his arrival he proceeded to the mining country of California and during an experience of many years there gained valuable knowledge in practical mining.

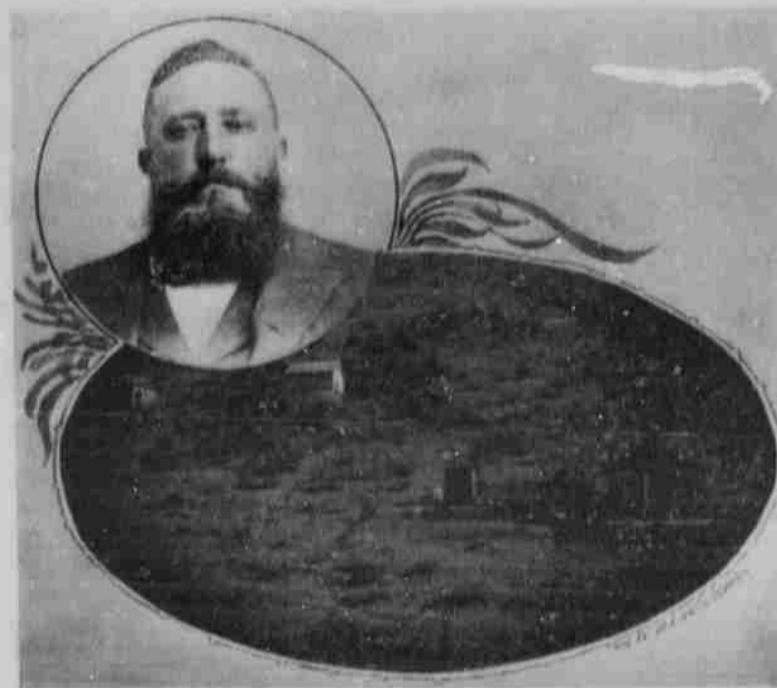
Therefore, when he decided to look at Cooks Peak, less than four years ago, he came well equipped. His first business venture was that of a lease on the Little Fat Man, on the quartzite, north of the east gulch. After two months work he abandoned this lease, and after looking around closed a lease with the Consolidated Kansas City Smelting & Mining company, February, '94, for the Othello group of three claims, the same that Ed. Orr and A. P. Taylor had located at different times years ago. For nearly a year Mr. Kieff worked this property with only indifferent success, and was at the end of this time somewhat disheartened. Then fortune smiled on him. He struck the largest body of ore ever found in a single pocket in this camp. This was in the Othello, and soon afterward he struck other big pockets both in this and the Desdemona claims. It averaged high—from 35 to 70 per cent lead

and from 5 to 12 ounces in silver. From that first big pocket he took 200 car loads, and before the expiration of his lease on the property he had shipped 700 cars of twenty tons each, a total of 15,000 tons.

He did not renew his lease, but preferred to develop other properties which he has purchased from time to time, and which include:

East Side.—Two-thirds interest in the Bryan claim with A. P. Taylor; now working on 100-foot shaft. Santa Claus, adjoining the Monte Cristo on the west; slightly prospected as yet. Four months ago he bought the Clara K. claim and is sinking two shafts. One is eighty-five feet deep and drifting into a body of ore; the other is seventy-five feet deep and has fine ore in sight. On this property are office, Superintendent Cullen's cabin and blacksmith shop.

West Side.—The Quartzsite, tunnel 100 feet and several small shafts, from which ore has been taken (full claims). Adjoining is Rob Roy. Here are also several shafts and a tunnel lower down the gulch. Southwest of the Rob Roy is the



WILLIAM KIEFF AND CLARA K. CLAIM

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Aztec, from which considerable ore has been taken. He is now driving a 200-foot tunnel from a joint down the canon to connect with veins of ore that crop out higher up. Parallel to the Aztec on the west is the Lone Wolf, which in the past has given up considerable ore. He has driven a 100-foot tunnel into this claim and intends to go deeper. Further to the west and extending down to the table land below is the Little Dick. A blacksmith shop and large dwelling have just been completed.

Mr. Kieff, with his family, is now visiting his relatives in Germany, and expects to return shortly before Christmas. He will be agreeably surprised when he receives intelligence of the excellent showing his properties have made during his absence.

It is his intention as soon as the production of his mines justifies it, to erect a smelter at the foot of the mountain on the Little Dick claim. With this industry in operation the "Peak" will have economic facilities which it has never enjoyed. As a matter of fact, it is only within range of probabilities that a railroad may before long be built from Crawford station, on the Silver City branch of the Santa Fe, to the smelter, a distance of sixteen miles.

## THE EARLY PIONEERS.

### Ed. G. Orr the First Prospector to Uncover Paying Ore.

With the discovery and subsequent development of the Cooks Peak district the names of early pioneers are still linked as inseparably as though the pick uncovered the first ore only yesterday. Many of these men are still there, and own valuable properties. Their advice is sought constantly by their contempor-

aries, and from it took 100 tons. This same property is in operation to-day by S. Lindauer and is still producing, as the Inez.

Mr. Orr made no additional locations until 1880. In this year, he located alone, Mr. Treton having left the camp, the Tip Top, now the Last Chance, the Eclipse and the Sunset properties. Part of these he sold. Jap Onstot now owns the Last Chance; Hugh Teel and Mr. Onstot, also pioneers, relocated the Eclipse and named it the Silver Cave, and Hiram Terrell a little later entered the Sunset as the Commodore.

Continuing to prospect, Mr. Orr found and sold several other claims, among them the Surprise, now the Leadville;



GRAPHIC MINE, HADLEY, COOKS CAMP IN THE DISTANCE

raries, and no one forgets the dangers and exposures they encountered in those early days. The Black range was the hunting grounds of Indians; their trails encircled the range, and the few springs in Cooks were visited by them; and when the red men in those days traveled this country they had their war paint on.

It was in 1875, long before the settlement of Denning as a town that Ed. Orr and Lorenzo Treton braved the dangers that then beset traveling, pushed westward to these mountains. The reward of their early prospecting was a find on the Mine Spring trail on the west side on a claim now owned by Ernest Kieff.

found the famous Othello, that has made more than one fortune, and the Exchange is up—including the Dick Bland and Wolcott—at the north end, which gave up fair car loads of rich ore in '93, and which he is now working with bright prospects. One of his openings is on a 80-foot shaft, into which he is running a 30-foot tunnel, and from which he will soon commence to take a rich carbonate ore, which carries both gold and silver.

A. P. Taylor came in 1876 and relocated the Othello and later sold it to G. L. Pierce of Socorro for \$200, who sold it to the Consolidated Kansas City Smelting & Refining company.

Following Mr. Taylor came Peter Spray, who located on the west side;



VIEW OF COOKS PEAK

Ed. Orr is probably the first man to mine ore in this district in a commercial sense. He took 100 tons of ore from the site of his first strike, fifty-five tons of which was in one pocket. At that time the hauling and freight charges to the smelter was \$8 per ton, and \$8 additional was charged for smelting. He next located the Summit mine on the east side, now owned by the Teel & Poe Mining company, a property that afterward was a large producer. He, however, forfeited this claim without working it, having struck what he thought to be a better thing a short distance above and to the west of the summit, in the "Saddle." This claim he named the Montezuma,

U. A. McDaniel, who, next to Kieff, is the heaviest property owner in the district; Hugh A. Teel, Charles Poe, now postmaster at Cooks; David Duran, Jap Onstot, Hiram Terrell and Dennis Peoples, all of whom are today successful operators.

Mrs. U. E. McDaniel, wife of one of the owners of the rich Leadville mine has the proud distinction of being the only woman who ever engaged in mining operations in this district. Herself a pioneer, she took a lease on the very property now giving up wealth to her husband, and for ten months managed it successfully and brought to the surface heavy shipments of ore.